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WEED DAYS.

Lunes & Viernes. Lunes & Viernes. H.K. 6.00 A.M. 7.30 A.M. 6.00 P.M. 7.00 A.M.

5.00 " 8.30 " 6.30 " 8.00 "

8.50 " 10.00 " 9.00 " 10.15 "

10.00 " 10.15 " 11.00 " 10.00 "

10.45 " 12.30 P.M. 12.30 P.M. 1.00 P.M.

1.30 " 1.30 " 2.30 " 3.00 "

2.30 " 3.00 " 3.30 " 4.00 "

3.30 " 4.00 " 4.15 " 4.30 "

4.15 " 4.30 " 4.50 " 5.10 "

4.50 " 5.10 " 5.20 " 5.40 "

5.20 " 5.40 " 5.50 " 6.10 "

5.55 " 6.10 " 6.30 " 7.00 "

6.30 " 7.00 " 7.15 " 7.30 "

7.15 " 7.30 "

* There will be no Launch on Monday and Friday, on account of coaling.

The above Time Table will be strictly adhered to, except under unavoidable circumstances. In case of stress of weather, due notice will be given of any stoppages.

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NY. Cast-off CLOTHING, BOOKS, or

PAPERS will be thankfully received at the Sailor's Home, West Point.

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714

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

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General Managers.

Hongkong, April 30, 1883.

715

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Co.'s Steamship

Sin Nanzing.

Capt. WANDLOVE, will

THE CHINA MAIL.

considering the atrocious perseverance with which you followed up your object, I am of opinion that I should not do my duty—if I should not sufficiently protect the large, and for the most part respectable, Chinese community in this Colony—if I do not make your punishment in a remarkable degree severe, and such as shall deter others from following your wicked example.

TELEGRAMS.

RUSSIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

RUSSIA ADVANCING ON THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.

London, 29th April, 1885.

The Standard publishes a paragraph, to the effect that a telegram has been received, which states that Marushchuk has been occupied by Russian Troops.

[Marushchuk is from 10 to 15 miles S.E. of Pandjik, and on the direct road to Bala Murghab, as long the headquarters of the Sir Peter Lumsden, the English Boundary Commissioner. Ed. C. M.]

Sir Robert Hart Appointed British Minister to China.

A private telegram has been received in town to-day from the North, announcing that the British Government has appointed Sir Robert Hart, K.C.M.G., who at present holds the post of Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Customs, to succeed the late Sir Harry Parkes as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China. The announcement has created a good deal of welcome surprise, and the appointment, if confirmed, will be hailed with great satisfaction not only by British but all foreign residents in the Far East. Sir Robert Hart, from his unquestioned ability, his long experience among Chinese, his high reputation as a man of the strictest integrity, and his present high position, is probably better fitted to occupy the post of British Minister in Peking than any of those whose names have been mentioned in connection with the appointment. While serving the Chinese Government with unshaking fidelity, he has invariably done his utmost to promote the interests of foreigners in China, and harmonise the intercourse between foreigners and natives. The organisation of the foreign customs, a work of infinite difficulty, has been effected with unequalled tact, and had he nothing else to recommend him, this in itself should be sufficient to ensure him the utmost consideration and greatest honour from his Government. We sincerely trust his appointment will be speedily confirmed, and record our emphatic belief that the British Government could not have made a better selection for the post. Sir Robert's influence with the Chinese Government of the present day is probably more powerful than that of any other foreigner, and it will no doubt be immensely greater when he occupies the proud position of being the representative of Great Britain.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUZI CANAL.—Laertes, April 10; Gordon Castle, and Hawerton, April 13; Harter, and Electra, April 13.

THE next AMERICAN MAIL, for the P. M. S. Co.'s steamer City of Peking, left Yokohama on Saturday, the 25th inst., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Friday, the 1st May.

The next FARNOR MAIL, by the M. M. Co.'s steamer Anday, left Singapore for Saigon, and this port on Monday, the 27th inst., at 11 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Monday, the 4th May.

The Shire Line steamer Denbighshire left Singapore for this port on the morning of the 28th instant.

The S. S. Tisane left Singapore for this port on the 27th inst.

The S. S. Bended left Singapore for this port on the 26th inst.

The S. S. Mandala left Singapore on the 27th inst. for this port.

The S. S. Glenowen left Singapore for this port on the 29th inst.

DOCK MOVEMENTS.—The Olympia will go to Kowloon Dock to-morrow.

The Opacat will leave Ceylonian Dock to-morrow.

We observe that the War Department call for tenders for the performance of works required for the construction of fortifications at and near the Li-ye-moon Pass and Sywan Hill. Sywan Hill is outside the Li-ye-moon Pass, and about a mile from Shau Ki Wan.

SOMETHING has caused a dead set against Buddhist monasteries lately in some of the native papers. A proposal published in the Shanghai press to confiscate the monastic establishments in and about Nanking, which are very numerous and wealthy, in order to meet some part of the expenses of the war with France, and to send their inmates to colonise Kashgar, has given great satisfaction to the *Ching Kai San Po*, which has had leading articles the last two days attacking Buddhism unspareingly and quoting largely from Han Wan Kung.

The *Shire Line Times* advocates the holding of a public meeting in Singapore for the purpose of passing resolutions demanding the immediate provision of torpedo boats for the defence of that port, as it is of no use for an honourable member to rise in his place in Council, and propose such a measure, and suggests if Hongkong were to call a public meeting a week in advance, (making a similar demand on behalf of Hongkong), so that the resolutions from both meetings were transmitted to England by the same mail, they would command additional attention, and thereby strengthen each other's hands.

THE telegram received to-day may be a final throw of the dice, in order to test the determination and promptitude of the British Government. If, instead of a remonstrance, it brings forth a declaration of war from England, or from the Admiralty, against Russia, little surprise need be felt. The English Government would naturally await official confirmation of the advance of Marushchuk before a formal declaration of war; but after receipt of an official assurance, nothing but war seems to be possible, or even advisable, under the circumstances.

THE London *Figaro*, in giving one or two instances in which foreign governments are indebted to the British Admiralty, mentions that the Dutch Government is included among the debtors, and then relates the circumstances under which the indebtedness was incurred. These will probably be remembered by most of our readers. The *Matafai* being wrecked on the Prata Shoals, and the Captain and Chief Mate of the ship, after having been exposed in an open boat for five days and four nights, came here for assistance. The Captain then went to Swatow and joined the *Swift*, in which he proceeded to the Medway and Thames forts, the Hongkong casemented forts will be, after a short bombardment, useless for defence and dangerous to the garrison.

The Solent, Medway, Portsmouth, Gibraltar, Malta, and Bermuda casemented forts, which were built after 1865, are now condemned, as unfit for the exigencies of modern war, for which the Kronstadt and German (Gruson) system is more adequate. The English defences are batteries built of brick, stone, granite, and below (b ton), uncoated by armour, but the gun embrasures are covered by the Ingol armour shield, which consists of 3 plates of rolled iron armour plates, each plate 5 inches thick. The forts have two tons of guns, but are not now deemed to be efficient. The Spithurst forts are of iron entirely, built on frames erected on a ring of masonry, 60 feet wide. The plan of the Kronstadt defences is more suitable for Hongkong, as batteries faced by heavy armour, and protected from land or boat attack by earthworks. The Gruson system, which is used in Germany, is defence of guns by cast iron slabs of great thickness, laid obliquely. A casemented masonry fort, like those at Kronstadt in 1854, would not stand the stroke of the French 32 and 48-ton guns for many minutes, and guns and garrison would be overwhelmed by heaps of disintegrated granite and brickwork.

WEATHER permitting, the Baud of "The Baud" will play at the Botanical Gardens this evening, commencing at 9 o'clock. The following is the programme:—

March..... "Turkish Patrol"..... Michaelis Overture..... "Guillaume Tell"..... Rossini. Air..... "The Harmonious"..... Handel. Blacksmith..... Verdi. Valse..... "Invicta"..... Gauner. Selection..... "Il Trovatore"..... Verdi. Song..... "Love Chord"..... Sullivan. Polka.... "Black and Tan"..... Lowthian. J. Kelly, Band Master.

At a Regular Convocation of the United Chapter 1341, held in the Masonic Hall, last night, the following officers were elected:—

G. Orley..... M.E.Z. C. W. Duggan..... J. J. Roberston..... S. E. Treu. H. J. Taylor..... S. N. J. R. Grinble..... P.S. E. Rose..... Steward J. Maxwell..... Janitor

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A FRENCH transport passed through Singapore harbour on the morning of the 22nd instant from the westward.

THE DEFENCES OF HONGKONG.

A correspondent who has evidently considerable knowledge of the subject of defences, sends us the following observations:

I have soon some references regarding the preposterous desire of the Hongkong Council, to have casemented forts to defend the harbour, and find that if planes are ready, sites fixed and ready, and skilled labour in abundance, a casemented fort could be completed, ready for armament and garrison in about eight years, provided due despatch is used, and all efforts made to finish the work without loss of time. First, the ground must be carefully prepared, and honeycombed with collars and passages, and in the basement of a heavy fort, unless the foundation is rock, the works must be arched above and below. The cement used is of a particular kind, and requires long time for setting. The superstructure must be of the best brickwork or masonry, and must be erected gradually; and finally, when all is completed, unless the walls and parts are protected by armour, like the Medway and Thames forts, the Hongkong casemented forts will be, after a short bombardment, useless for defence and dangerous to the garrison.

The English defences are batteries built of brick, stone, granite, and below (b ton), uncoated by armour, but the gun embrasures are covered by the Ingol armour shield, which consists of 3 plates of rolled iron armour plates, each plate 5 inches thick. The forts have two tons of guns, but are not now deemed to be efficient. The Spithurst forts are of iron entirely, built on frames erected on a ring of masonry, 60 feet wide. The plan of the Kronstadt defences is more suitable for Hongkong, as batteries faced by heavy armour, and protected from land or boat attack by earthworks. The Gruson system, which is used in Germany, is defence of guns by cast iron slabs of great thickness, laid obliquely. A casemented masonry fort, like those at Kronstadt in 1854, would not stand the stroke of the French 32 and 48-ton guns for many minutes, and guns and garrison would be overwhelmed by heaps of disintegrated granite and brickwork.

The Chinese military commission of Chihli manage much better than the Hongkong and Home authorities. The earth-work defences at Taku, Pehlung, Shau-hai-kwan, and other points, are really very good. The Chinese, also, are deserving of compliment, as they act promptly and intelligently, whereas the Government of Hongkong and the English War Office are gravely open to serious charges of neglect and slackness. It is possible that the hesitation of the military authorities arises from the fact that Hongkong is commanded on nearly all points by high ground on the mainland, and in the islands surrounding, the real defence against serious attack could only be given by a fleet. But to guard the harbour against a raiding visit from a few vessels is not a difficult matter, and a few earthen batteries armed by the gunners which have 2000 feet initial velocity, will protect the city from capture and ransack.

Considering time, expense, conditions of climate, supply of material, &c., &c., the best or rather only suitable defences for Hongkong will be forts of sifted earth, well rammed, and covered with grass turf. The walls should be 65 feet wide at base, without embrasures, and the heavy guns should be fired over the parapet. At the salients only embrasures should be provided for light guns and machine guns. On lower levels the main fort should be protected by small closed redoubts, to keep off attack by soldiery. Defences of the kind recommended can be made ready for guns in a few weeks, and completed as time and funds allow. The banquette and ramps should be macadamized to stand rain. The traverses should be 25 feet thick.

RELEASE OF LEE LUM KWAI.

Lee Lum Kwai, who was convicted in 1874 before the Supreme Court on five counts of having threatened to accuse Young Amoy and Young Apat, brothers of murder, kidnapping, and robbery, with intent to extort money, and of having accused Young Amoy of murder, with the same intent, and who was sentenced by Judge Smale to imprisonment for life "twice over" and nine years extra, was released from Gaol this morning. He was sentenced on the 5th October, 1874, so that he had served ten and a half years in prison. During that time his conduct has been of a most exemplary character. He has for years done much of the translating and interpreting work, and has,

Mails.

U. S. MAIL LINE.
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP
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AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.THE U. S. MAIL STEAMSHIP "CITY OF
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Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central
and South America, by the Company's and
connecting Steamers.Through Passage Tickets granted to
England, France, and Germany by all
the Atlantic Lines of Steamers.RETURN PASSENGERS.—Passengers, who
have paid full fare, re-embarking at San
Francisco for China, or Japan (or vice versa)
within six months, will be allowed a discount
of 20% from Return Fare; if re-embarking
within one year, an allowance of 10% will
be made from Return Fare. Pre-Paid Re-
turn Passage Orders, available for one year,
will be issued at a Discount of 25% from
Return Fare. These allowances do not apply
to through fares from China and Japan to
Europe.Freight will be received on board until 4
p.m. the day previous to sailing. Parcel
Packages will be received at the office until
5 p.m., same day; all Parcel Packages
should be marked to address full; value
of same is required.Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo
destined to ports beyond San Francisco
should be sent to the Company's Office in
Seated Enclosed, addressed to the Collector
of Customs at San Francisco.For further information as to Passage
and Freight, apply to the Agency of the
Company, No. 104, Queen's Road Central.F. E. FOSTER,
Agent.

Hongkong, April 18, 1885. 656

Hongkong Rates of Postage.

In the following Statements and Tables
the Rates are given in cents, and are, for
Letters, per half ounce, for Books and
Packets, per pound.Newspapers over four ounces in weight
are charged as double, triple, &c., as the
case may be, but such papers or packets of
news may be sent at Book Rate. Two
Newspapers must not be folded together as
one, nor must anything whatever be inserted
except bona fide Supplements. Printed
matter may, however, be enclosed, if the
whole be paid at Book Rate. Prices
current may be paid either as Newspapers or
Books.Commercial Papers signify such papers
as, though Written by Hand, do not bear
the character of an actual or personal corre-
spondence, such invoices, deeds, copied
music, &c. The charge on them is the same
as for books, but, whatever the weight of
a packet containing any partially written
paper, it will not be charged less than 5
cents.The sender of any Registered Article
may accompany it with Return Receipt
on paying the extra fee of 5 cents.The list of weight for Books and Com-
mercial Papers to Foreign Post Offices is
4 lbs. Patterns for such offices are limited
to 8 ounces, and must not exceed those
dimensions: 8 inches by 4 inches by 2
inches.

Countries of the Postal Union.

The Union may be taken to comprise
Europe, all foreign possessions in Asia,
Japan, W. Africa, Egypt, Mauritius, all
of America, Mexico, Salvador, Brazil,
Peru, Chile, Venezuela, The Argentine
Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad, Guiana,
Honduras, Nicaragua, Laibon, Uruguay, with
all Dutch, French, Netherlands, Portuga-
luese, and Spanish Colonies.Countries not in the Union are the Aus-
tralian Group, and S. Africa.

Postage to Union Countries.

General Rates, by any route:—
Letters, 10 cents per 1/2 oz.
Post Cards, 3 cents each.Registration, 10 cents.
Newspapers, 2 cents each.
Books, Patterns and
Com. Papers, 2 cents per 1/2 oz.There is no charge on registered corre-
spondence within the Postal Union.

Postage to Non-Union Countries.

When correspondence has been missent
or delayed (both of which are liable to
happen occasionally) all that the addressee
can do is to note on the cover, *Sent to*
_____, or *Received at* 7 p.m., or as the case
may be, and forward it, without any
other writing whatever, to the Postmaster
General. This should be done on the first
time of complaint occurs; it is a
mistake to let such matters pass for fear of
giving trouble, a course which generally
gives more trouble in the end.

Mailed or Delayed Correspondence.

Correspondence has been missent
or delayed (both of which are liable to
happen occasionally) all that the addressee
can do is to note on the cover, *Sent to*
_____, or *Received at* 7 p.m., or as the case
may be, and forward it, without any
other writing whatever, to the Postmaster
General. This should be done on the first
time of complaint occurs; it is a
mistake to let such matters pass for fear of
giving trouble, a course which generally
gives more trouble in the end.

Postage to Non-Union Countries.

Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and
Fiji, via Torres Straits, Letters, 10; Regis-
tration, 10; Newspapers, 2; Books and
Patterns, 2; Via Ceylon, Letters, 25; Regis-
tration, 10; Newspapers, 2; Books and
Patterns, 2.Natal, the Cape, St. Helena, Ascension,
Bolivia, Letters, 25; Registration, 10; New-
spapers, 2; Books and Patterns, 5.Chair, Jinricksha, and Boat
Hire.LEGALIZED TAIFU OF VAMES FOR CHAINS,
CHAIR BEARERS, AND BOATS,
IN THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.

Chair.

Half hour, ... 10 cts. One hour, ... 20 cts.

Three hours, 50 cts. Six hours, ... 70 cts.

Day (from 6 to 6) One Dollar.

LOCAL POSTAGE.

General Local Rates per Hongkong
Musae, China, Japan, Siam, direct (d),
Sukien, China, Tonkin, and the Philippines.Letters per 1/2 oz., 5 cents (c).
Post Cards, each, 1 cent.Books, Patterns and Patterns, per 2 oz.,
2 cents.Newspapers and Prices Current, each, 2
cents.

Registration, 10 cents.

(d) Via Singapore, 10 cents.
(e) Between Hongkong, Canton, and Macao
2 cents.

Local Delivery.

1. All correspondence posted before 5
p.m. on any week day for addressees in
Victor, will be delivered the same day,
and generally within two hours, unless the
delivery should be required by the Contract
Mails.2. Invitations, &c., can generally be
delivered within Victor at the private
houses of the addressee rather than at
places of business, if a wish to that effect
be expressed by the sender, otherwise all
correspondence is invariably delivered at
the nearest place of business.3. Boxholders who desire to send Circu-
lars, Dispatch Warrants, Invitations, Cards,
&c., all of the same weight, to addresses in
Hongkong, Bangkok, or the Ports of
China, may deliver them to the Post
Office un stamped, the postage being then
charged to the sender's account. Each
batch must consist of at least ten.4. Boxholders may also send Patterns
to the same places in the same way. If
relatives containing Patterns may be wholly
closed, if the nature of the contents first
be examined, the sender will be charged
the postage on the same as on a Gap.The Return Fare embraces a trip of not
more than three hours, except returning by
Aberdeen when three hours and a half will
be allowed.For every hour or part of an hour above
three or three and a half, each Coolie will
be entitled to an additional payment of five
cents.Nothing in above scale prevents private
agreements.

LICENCED BOXERS (each).

One Hour, ... 10 cents.
Half Day, ... 35 cents.
Day, ... 50 cents.

Jinricksha.

Quarter Hour, 50 cts. One Hour, ... 15 cts.

Half Hour, ... 10 cts. Two Hours, ... 25 cts.

For every hour or part of an hour } 10 cents.

To Pak-fu-Lam or Quarry Bay, ... 20 cts.

Return, ... 35 cts.

To Shaukwan, ... 35 cts.

Return, ... 50 cts.

To Aberdeen, ... 35 cts.

Return, ... 60 cts.

If an extra Coolie is employed, the fare
will be double.Nothing in this scale prevents private
agreements.

BOAT AND COOLIE RIDE.

1st Class Cargo Boat of 8 or 900
picks, per Day, ... \$3.00.1st Class Cargo Boat of 8 or 900
picks, per Load, ... 2.00.2nd Class Cargo Boat of 600
picks, per Day, ... 2.50.2nd Class Cargo Boat of 600
picks, per Load, ... 1.75.2nd Class Cargo Boat of 600
picks, per Day, ... 1.50.3rd Class Cargo Boat or Ha-kau Boat of
300 picks, per Day, ... 1.00.3rd Class Cargo Boat or Ha-kau Boat of
300 picks, per Load, ... 1.00.3rd Class Cargo Boat or Ha-kau Boat of
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